Caenagnathasia

Caenagnathasia ('recent jaw from Asia') is a small caenagnathid oviraptorosaurian theropod from the Late Cretaceous of Uzbekistan.

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Discovery

The type species *Caenagnathasia martinsoni* was named and described in 1994 by Philip J. Currie, Stephen Godfrey and Lev Nesov. The generic name is a combination of a reference to the species' placement in the Caenagnathidae, with Asia, the continent of its provenance. The specific name honours Gerbert Genrikhovich Martinson. The genus is based on holotype **N 401/12457**, a pair of fused dentaries of the lower jaws. The specimen was found near Dzharakuduk in layers of the Bissekty Formation, dating to the Turonian-Coniacian, around 90 mya, making it the oldest known caenagnathoid. A second specimen was referred to the species, N 402/12457, a right dentary of a slightly smaller individual. Both individuals were adult.[1] In 2015, new material of *Caenagnathasia* was described. From the same site as the holotype, the material includes various vertebrae, a dentary, and a femur.[2]

Description

Caenagnathasia is the smallest known oviraptorosaur and one of the smallest non-avian dinosaurs. The jaw fragments are only a few centimetres long and total skull length has been estimated at 3 inches (7.6 cm). A 2010 estimate by Gregory S. Paul gave it a length of 2 feet (0.61 m) and a weight of 3 pounds (1.4 kg).[3] *Caenagnathasia* would presumably have resembled other oviraptorosaurs, which were feathered, bird-like dinosaurs with beaked skulls, long necks, and long limbs. Recent studies suggest it was one of the more primitive members of the Caenagnathidae.

Caenagnathasia

Temporal range: Late Cretaceous, 90 Ma

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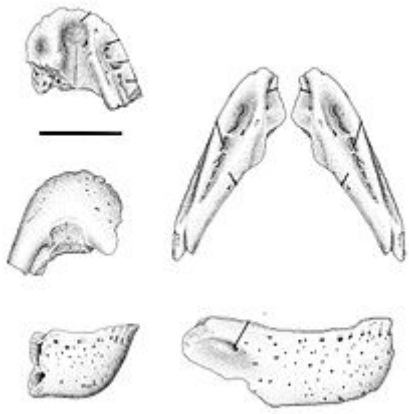


Illustration of the lower jaw

Scientific classification

Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Clade:	Dinosauria
Clade:	Saurischia
Clade:	Theropoda
Family:	†Caenagnathidae
Subfamily:	†Elmisaurinae
Genus:	†*Caenagnathasia* Currie *et al.*, 1994
Species:	†***C. martinsoni***

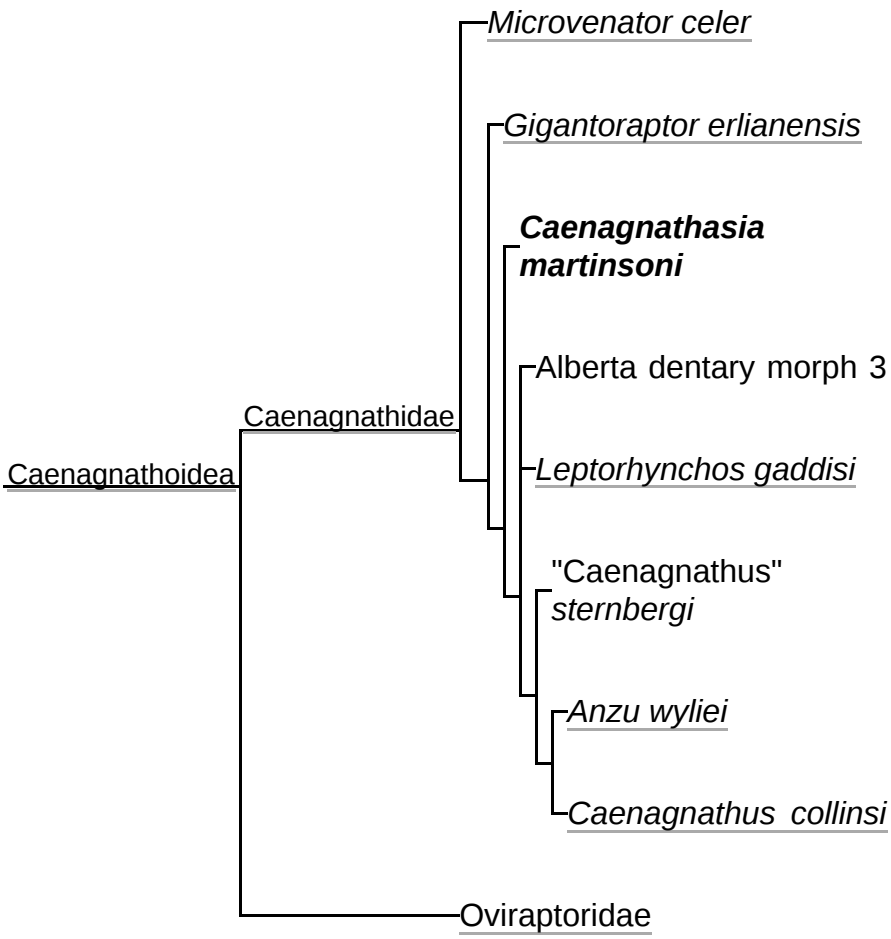
Binomial name

†***Caenagnathasia martinsoni***
Currie *et al.*, 1994

Classification

Caenagnathasia was originally assigned to the Caenagnathidae. Using the definition by Hans-Dieter Sues of that clade it would even by definition be a member. It has been suggested however, that it might have a more basal position in the Oviraptorosauria, outside of the Caenagnathoidea.[4] In 2015 after the description of new material, it was found that *Caenagnathasia* could confidently be referred to Caenagnathidae.[2]

The below cladogram is based on that resolved in the description of *Anzu*.[5]



Life restoration

See also

- Timeline of oviraptorosaur research

References

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5. Lamanna, M. C.; Sues, H. D.; Schachner, E. R.; Lyson, T. R. (2014). "A New Large-Bodied Oviraptorosaurian Theropod Dinosaur from the Latest Cretaceous of Western North America" (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3960162). *PLoS ONE*. **9** (3): e92022. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0092022 (https://doi.org/10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0092022). PMC 3960162 (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3960162). PMID 24647078 (https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24647078).

External links

- Image of *C. martinsonii* at The Dinosauria (http://the_dinosauria.tripod.com/caenagnathasia.html)

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